

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

April 2011 Edition

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Welcome!

It's a pleasure to connect with my constituents and highlight informational programs, services and area events happening throughout our District Two community and Howard County.

Know of any great community events? Please share them with my office so that I may review them for inclusion in this newsletter!

For your convenience, I have included at the end of this edition

opportunities on how you can get involved in our community through volunteering or participation on County Boards.

Please feel free to share this Bulletin with friends, neighbors, and community organizations. If you don't already receive this bulletin directly and would like to subscribe, email me at cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

Redistricting Commission 2011!

The first meeting of the Redistricting Committee 2011 will hold its first meeting today, **Monday, April 11, 2011 at 7pm** in the **Columbia/Ellicott City Room** of the **George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive** in **Ellicott City, MD**.

For more details, contact **Theodore Wimberly** at **410-313-2001** or email twimberly@howardcountymd.gov.

General Plan Task Force Created!

Approximately every 10 years, Howard County updates its General Plan by establishing a Task Force to provide guidance to the County as it plans for the opportunities and challenges of the future. The Department of Planning and Zoning is tasked with overseeing the General Plan date, and over the last several months, staff have been researching and preparing background information for this project. At this point, a task force must be reflective of various community perspectives which are needed to help develop the guiding principles and framework for the General Plan. It is important to note that the task force members may have different professional and community affiliations, each is being asked to serve as an individual resident, not as a representative of any group or organization.

I'd like to take a brief moment and welcome the 36 Task Force Members: Ned Tillman (Chairman), Tudy Adler, Nina Basu, Kal Bhatti, Steve Breeden, Martha Clark Crist, Phil Engelke, Doug Erdmann, Anwar Hasan, Karol Hess, Sarah Husain, Andrea Ingram, Darius Irani, Barbara Kellner, Grace Kubofcik, Joan Lancos, Ted Mariani, Val McGuire, Joe Mezzanotte, Maria Miller, Chris Murn, Sang Oh, Jay Parekh, Elizabeth Rendon, Steven Rice, Dwayne Robinson, Brent Rutley, Bill Santos, Peter Scheidt, Maurice Simpkins, Felicita Sola-Carter, Sue Song, David Steele, Robert Turner, Sharonlee Vogel and Cathy Ward.

The first meeting of the General Plan Task Force is open to the public and will be held on **Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 7pm** in **Room 6** of the **Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive** in **Columbia, MD**.

Get Involved in the 2011 Howard County Budget Process!

On Friday, April 1, 2011, County Executive Ulman submitted a proposed capital and operating budgets for Howard County's public agencies to the County Council for review and approval. The Council may approve the budgets as submitted or make reductions. The Council may not increase the Executive's budgets, but may restore any amount to the Board of Education Budget that was not included by the Executive. The capital budgets include all building and long-term construction projects and programs planned for the next fiscal year and for the ensuing nine years. The operating budgets include each department's proposed programs and services for the next fiscal year and their cost.

The Council has scheduled a number of public hearings to receive testimony on each department's capital and operating budgets. You may testify in person at a public hearing, submit written testimony to: Stephen LeGendre, Administrator, Howard County Council, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043, email councilmail@howardcountymd.gov or fax 410-313-3297 testimony to the Council at any time during the budget process. Public Hearings and legislative sessions are held in the Banneker Room, George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City, MD. Work sessions are held in the C. Vernon Gray Conference Room in the George Howard Building. Persons needing accommodations to fully participate in a meeting are asked to contact the Council office at least eight working days in advance by calling 410-313-2001.

- **Tuesday, April 12, 7pm:** Public Hearing – Capital Budget: Police, Fire, Recreation & Parks, Community Renewal (housing), Agricultural Preservation, Public Works (General County, Sewer, Water, Storm Drainage Transportation [Bridges, Road Resurfacing, Road Construction, Sidewalk/curb, Intersection Improvements]).
- **Thursday, April 14, 1pm:** Work Session - Capital Budget: All departments except Board of Education, Library and Howard Community College
- **Thursday, April 21:** Operating Budget Due
- **Tuesday, April 26, 3pm:** Work Session – Capital Budget (if needed)
- **Tuesday, April 26, 7pm:** Public Hearing – Operating Budget: All departments except Board of Education, Library and Howard Community College
- **Monday, May 2, 7pm:** Constant Yield Session
- **Monday, May 2, 7:30pm:** Legislative Session: Introduce budget related legislation
- **Thursday, May 5, 8:30am:** Work Session – Operating Budget: Legislative, Judicial Public Safety (Police, Fire), Public Facilities
- **Saturday, May 7, 9am:** Public Hearing – Capital and Operating Budgets: Board of Education, Library, Howard Community College
- **Tuesday, May 10, 9:30am:** Work Session – Community Services, Funds/Revenues
- **Tuesday, May 10, 11am:** Public Hearing – General
- **Thursday, May 12, 8:30am:** Work Session – Capital and Operating Budgets: Board of Education
- **Thursday, May 12, 11am:** Work Session – Capital and Operating Budgets: Library
- **Thursday, May 12, 1pm:** Work Session – Capital and Operating Budgets: Howard Community College
- **Monday, May 16, 7:30pm:** Legislative Public Hearing – Including budget related legislation
- **Wednesday, May 18, 4:30pm:** Work Session – Operating Budget – General Government
- **Friday, May 20, 9:30am:** Work Session (if needed) – Pending issues
- **Wednesday, May 25 10:30am:** Legislative Session – Adopt Budget

County-Wide Spring Clean-up!

Howard County's "20 Minute Cleanup" is back for its second year and will take place on **Thursday, April 14, 2011**. Individuals, groups of friends, business colleagues, students and families are invited to choose a convenient time to safely pick up litter around their office building, school or neighborhood and then see the difference just 20 minutes can actually make! Trash and recyclables collected during the project should be disposed of using regular business or residential pick-up but the County encourages all participants to recycle everything they can!

Those interested in participating can email 20minutecleanup@howardcountymd.gov to ask any questions, share information about your group or obtain help starting a Cleanup group. All registered participants will be acknowledged and thanked on the County's Green Central Station website, www.livegreenhoward.com.

Collision Avoidance Training!

Learn how to handle your car in any situation. Designed especially for new drivers who want more specialized experience on the road, Collision Avoidance Training teaches hands-on techniques for evasive maneuvers, emergency braking, cornering, backing, skid recovery, steering, acceleration and more.

The cost of the course is \$95 and is open to licensed teens ages 16-19. Classes for 2011 will be held on the following dates: **4/15 & 4/16, 5/20 & 5/21, 6/24 & 6/25**. For more information, visit www.hcpd.org or call 410-313-3758.

Earth Forum of Howard County!

Are there links between weather extremes and climate change? Join Dr. Wayne Higgins as he answers why we are seeing so many weather extremes and how scientists can accurately predict climate change decades ahead. He'll also explain the important differences and connections between weather and climate, as well as the differences between natural climate variability and human-induced climate change.

The event will be held on **Sunday, April 17, 2011** from 2-4:30pm at **First Presbyterian Church of Howard County, 9325 Presbyterian Circle in Columbia, MD**. This event is **FREE** and open to all. For more details, call 410-730-3545 or email earthforum@firstpreshc.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON HOWARD COUNTY!

I'd like to take a brief moment and acknowledge an outstanding individual whom recently I've had the privilege to present with an Joint Proclamation on behalf of the County Executive's Office and the Howard County Council.

HC Drug Free, an organization dedicated to helping teens avoid Alcohol & Drugs.

Navigating Retirement's Changing Landscape!

Retirement planning isn't as simple as it used to be: Strategies that worked well in the past may now have to be reconsidered in light of inflation, changes in corporate retirement plans, uncertainty about Social Security, market conditions and other factors. Please join us for an informational seminar that examines the changing landscape of retirement and offers actionable recommendations on how to plan for the retirement you envision.

This event will be held on **Wednesday, April 20, 2011** from 6-7pm in the conference room at **Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, 6230 Old Dobbin Lane, Suite 100 in Columbia, MD**. Light refreshments will be served. Guests are welcome. **RSVP required to Wayne T. Lavallee: 443-259-3030 or Courtney Bernal: 443-259-3018** or online at www.fa.smithbarney.com/waynelavallee.

Howard County Government Closes for Good Friday!

Howard County Government offices and animal shelter will be closed in observance of Good Friday on **Friday, April 22, 2011**. However, the District and Circuit Courts will remain open. There will be regular trash and recycling services in effect and the landfill will also be open. Howard Transit will be operating on a regular business day schedule. Parking meters will require coins on Good Friday, but will be free **ONLY** on Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011.

As always, the 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call 9-1-1. For non-emergencies, call **410-313-2200**.

County offices will re-open at regular business hours on **Monday, April 25, 2011**.

Charter Review Commission 2011's 1st Meeting!

Stay engaged! The Charter Review Commission will be holding its first meeting on **Thursday, April 21, 2011** beginning at **8am** in the **C. Vernon Gray Room of the George Howard Building**. For more details, contact **Meredith Beach** at mbeach@howardcountymd.gov or call **410-313-2001**.

Commissioners Wanted for HC Commission on Disability Issues!

The Howard County Commission on Disability Issues is currently accepting applications for individuals interested in serving a five-year term as a Commissioner. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must be a Howard County resident, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in disability issues and be able to attend the Commission's meetings on the third Monday of each month from 6-8:30pm.

Applicants must submit a resume and a brief letter explaining why they want to serve on the Commission to: **Howard County Government, Department of County Administration, Attn: Susan Smith-Bauk, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043**. The names of approved candidates will be sent to the County Executive, who will then submit his recommendations to the County Council for confirmation.

For more information, call **Joyce Lehrer** at **410-313-6431** or email [jllehrer@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jlehrer@howardcountymd.gov).

MDOT Public Workshop on Potential Sites in Howard County for Intermodal Facility”!

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) together with CSX Transportation, Inc. and its affiliates will hold public workshops regarding the development of a new rail intermodal facility. It is believed that construction of a modern, environmentally-sensitive truck-rail transfer facility for intermodal containers is critical to the future of the State’s economy, its ability to compete in the global marketplace and the need to create and support good-paying jobs in Maryland.

Four candidate sites have been identified for further consideration under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). They include:

- A portion of the property on the Jessup Correctional Institution, east of the Camden Line between Brock Bridge Road and south of MD 175 in Anne Arundel County
- Property north of Hanover Road between the Camden Line and Race Road in Howard County
- Property west of the Camden Line and north of Montevideo Road in Howard County
- Property east of the Camden Line and west of MD 201 between Sunnyside Avenue and Powder Mill Road in Prince George’s County

A workshop will be hosted here in Howard County on **Wednesday, April 27, 2011** from **7-9pm** at **Elkridge Landing Middle School, 7085 Montgomery Road in Elkridge, MD**. For more information, visit www.intermodal.maryland.gov.

Transportation Advocates Meeting!

The next meeting of Transportation Advocates is **Thursday, April 28, 2011** at the **Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keaton Way in Columbia, MD** beginning at **7:30am**. The group will discuss the expansions at Ft. Meade with BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure), growth in existing tenants, Cyber Command, DISA as well as other new organizations in and around Ft. Meade upon our County and region. Kent Menser and Jean Friedbert of the Howard County BRAC Task Force are expected to attend to provide an update.

For more details, contact **Sharonlee Vogel** at sharonleevogel@gmail.com.

Howard County Housing Accepting MIHU Applications!

Howard County Housing has already begun accepting applications for the April enrollment period for the County’s Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU) program. The current enrollment period will end on **Friday, April 29, 2011**.

The MIHU Program is an inclusionary zoning program that requires developers of new housing in certain zoning districts to sell or rent some of the new dwelling units to households of moderate income. The program offers quality new homes at reduced sale prices and rental rates to income eligible families.

Open enrollment periods for the MIHU purchase program are held quarterly. Interested persons should visit the County website at www.howardcountymd.gov or call Howard County Housing at **410-313-6318**.

Community Conference on the Impact of 9-11!

Caroline Chisolm, an independent research student at Oakland Mills High School and student intern with Council Chairman Calvin Ball, will host a community conference on **Saturday, April 30, 2011** from **10am-12pm** at **Oakland Mills High School**. She has been studying the how the treatment of Muslims in the United States has changed after September 11, 2001. A speaker from the Islamic Society of Baltimore will speak on how treatment of Muslims has changed after 9-11 and Muhammad Jameel on the importance of love and acceptance in a community.

This event is **FREE** and open to the public. For more details, email caroline.chisolm@gmail.com or call **410-313-6949**.

Gospel Extravaganza to Benefit Office on Aging's Vivian L. Reid Community Fund!

Presented in part by Howard County's Office on Aging and the Tau Pi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the 9th annual Gospel Extravaganza will be held on **Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 6pm** in the **Jim Rouse Theatre at Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Lane in Columbia, MD.**

This year will feature performances by noted gospel ensembles Sons of Harmony and Gospel Revelations, the McDaniel College Gospel Choir, the James Fenimore Cooper Male Chorus and a steel drum performance by Taze on Steel.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under and can be purchased online at the Office on Aging's website, www.howardcountyaging.org. Proceeds from the 2011 Gospel Extravaganza will benefit the Office on Aging's Vivian L. Reid Community Fund, which provides emergency financial assistance to Howard County senior citizens in need, and the Tau Pi Foundation Scholarship fund, which provides scholarships to college-bound Howard County high school students.

For more information, contact either the Office on Aging at 410-313-6410 or email bharris@howardcountymd.gov or Jim Kerr of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at 301-443-5214 or email jim.kerr@hhs.gov.

2011 Rebuilding Day!

Rebuilding Together Howard County is now accepting homeowner applications for its' 2011 Rebuilding Day on **Saturday, April 30, 2011**. Volunteers deliver **FREE** services on National Rebuilding Day using donated materials and supplies to ensure a warm, safe and dry home for low income homeowners, families, individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and veterans in Howard County.

For more information or an application, call 410-381-3338, email info@rebuildingtogetherhc.org or visit www.rebuildingtogetherhc.org.

Earth Day Celebration!

Come celebrate Earth Day with Howard County by putting down some roots and planting a tree. On **Saturday, April 30, 2011**, bring your family and/or friends to participate in a tree planting and other environmentally friendly projects at one of Howard County's many parks. Be sure to bring a shovel and work gloves.

For additional information or to sign-up for a park site, call 410-313-4624.

2nd Annual Climate Change Network Party for the Future!

Stop by and have a drink and snack while you learn about current climate solutions in Howard County and Maryland. Meet old friends and new and explore local sustainability efforts, new discussion circles and advocacy opportunities. It will be held on **Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 3-5pm** at the **Oakland Mills Interfaith Center, 5885 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia, MD.**

This event is **FREE** and open to the public. All are welcome and you're encouraged to bring your family and friends! For more information, call 301-996-3837 or email hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Office of School Planning Seeks Howard County Citizens to Participate in Attendance Area Adjustment Committee!

The Howard County Public School System is seeking members for a potential Attendance Area Adjustment Committee to the Superintendent. Redistricting may be under consideration for the 2012-2013 school year. Prospective plans must be reviewed by a committee comprised of 10-12 Howard County residents and may include one student.

Members are appointed by the Superintendent to advise and comment during the planning phase regarding Capital Budget and redistricting recommendations being developed by staff. Committee members are asked to volunteer 12-15 evening meetings. If redistricting is deferred, the pool of citizens who have expressed interest will be retained for the following year.

All letters of interest and resumes must be received by **Monday, May 2, 2011**, at the following address: **Howard County Public School System, Office of School Planning, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042.**

For more information, call 410-313-1554 or email jennifer_bubenko@hcpss.org.

5K Run for the Homeless!

Council Chairman Calvin Ball and Mid-Maryland Baptist Association have joined forces to sponsor a 5K Run to benefit the Route 1 Day Center, a Grassroots 501(c)3 organization serving homeless families in Howard County. The Center is an invaluable resource to individuals and families in need and provide hot meals, clean clothes, camping items, referral opportunities, basic preventative medical care and crisis intervention to approximately 200 people every month.

The "Hope for the Homeless" 5K run will be held **Saturday, May 7, 2011** beginning at **9am** at Rockburn Park in Ellicott City, MD. Advance registration fees are \$20 per runner and after April 1, 2011, registration fees will increase to \$25 per runner. For more information, registration forms or for donation opportunities, visit www.hopeforhomeless5K.com.

A Better High: Supporting Teens in Making Healthy Choices!

Comedian/Motivational Speaker, Matt Bellace, Ph.D. will encourage our students to pursue natural highs and make health choices. This event is hosted by HC Drug Free and is **FREE** and open to the public. It will be held on **Tuesday, May 10, 2011** at **7pm, Atholton High School**.

For more details, contact **Joan Webb Scornaienchi** at 443-325-0040, email joan@hcdrugfree.org or visit www.hcdrugfree.org.

PlanMaryland to Host Public Forum!

The Maryland Department of Planning has scheduled eight open houses as part of the next phase of public outreach for a State Growth Plan known as PlanMaryland. Attendees will be given the opportunity to learn about the draft Plan, talk to state staff and provide comments and input on the draft Plan.

Your feedback is wanted on what needs to be done for growth and development to be directed more to our urban and rural communities, towns and cities. Share what you think needs to be done to protect and preserve our farms and open spaces so that they will be around for future generations to enjoy!

The Howard County Public Forum will be held on **Thursday, May 19, 2011** from **5-8pm** at **Long Reach High School Cafeteria, 6101 Old Dobbin Lane in Columbia, MD**. For more details, visit <http://plan.maryland.gov/getInvolved/PublicForumsSchedule2011.shtml> or call 1-877-767-6272.

Wine in the Woods!

On **Saturday, May 21 through Sunday, May 22, 2011**, join attendees across the state for the 19th consecutive Wine in the Woods festival. Held in Symphony Woods, adjacent to Merriweather Post Pavilion, attendees will have the opportunity to sample from over 38 of Maryland's finest wineries, sharpen their palate by attending wine education seminars and revel in continuous live entertainment.

There will be an abundance of food to purchase and exceptional works of art and specialty crafts to check out. You must be 21 to drink. Tickets for those 21 and above are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the gate. Those ages 3-20 are \$5. Online ticket sales begin Thursday, March 3, 2011 and require an approved online account. Online advance purchase ends Wednesday, May 11, 2011. Tickets can also be purchased in person from May 12-20 at the Department of Recreation and Parks, 7120 Oakland Mills Road, the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood, 2400 Route 97 in Cooksville and the Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia, MD.

To learn more about the Department's designated driver program, call **410-313-4700**. Designated Driver tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the gate. The event will be held rain or shine. For more information, visit www.wineinthewoods.com.

Howard County 3rd Annual Men's Health Fair!

Howard County Council Chairman Calvin Ball hosts his 3rd annual Men's Health Fair in partnership with the Howard County Health Department. It will be held on **Saturday, June 4, 2011** from **10am-2pm** at **Howard High School, 8700 Old Annapolis Road in Ellicott City, MD**.

Enjoy **FREE** healthy food samples while taking advantage of **FREE** screenings including kidney diseases, cholesterol, diabetes, blood pressure, BMI, bone density, glaucoma and vision acuity to name just a few. There will also be a wealth of resources on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. This event remains **FREE** and open to the public. Exhibitor space is still available.

For more details, call **Kimberly Pruim** at **410-313-3105**.

Summer Reading Kickoff!

The Summer Reading Kickoff will begin on **Saturday, June 4, 2011** at the **East Columbia Branch Library, 5500 Cradlerock Way in Columbia, MD**. For more details, call **410-313-7700**.

Domestic Violence Center to Expand its Sexual Assault Services

The Domestic Violence Center (DVC) is pleased to announce a collaborative effort with the Howard County Police Department and the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) to expand DVS's sexual assault services with the hire of a Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Clinician who will be based at the CAC. For more details, call **410-997-0304** or visit www.dvcenter.org.

"Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register online at www.commuterconnections.org or call **1-800-745-RIDE (7433)**.

Alzheimer's Early-Stage Programs Now Available!

The Alzheimer's Early-Stage Social Club began in **January 2011**. Meetings will be held from 9:00am-1:00pm Wednesdays and Fridays and Pre-screening is required. To reserve your space and/or for pre-screening, call **Judy Miller** at **410-313-5441**. For more information on the Alzheimer's association, call **1-800-272-3900** or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information? The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) is inviting businesses interested in accessing government contracting opportunities and becoming a qualified prime or sub-contractor to register with the BBI's new Match-Up Database. A number of defense contractors and government agencies are already using the Match-Up Database to determine which BBI businesses may possess the capabilities they require. Many companies registered in the Database have already been selected to meet with large prime contractors to partner and increase business.

The database is **FREE** of charge and open to all local companies interested in generating more business within the defense community. The Match-Up Database can be found at www.bbimatchup.com and registering in the database automatically makes a company a member of the BBI.

The BBI/Installation Partner Meeting which was scheduled for March 25 has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, April 20, 2011**. The April 20 Meeting which was going to be an In Progress Review (IPR) will be moved to May with a date TBD.

For any questions on the BBI or our monthly update meetings, call **Raj Kudchadkar** at **410-313-6376** or email rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov.

Mentors & Tutors Wanted!

A-OK (Assisting Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring Program needs adult volunteers to work in Howard County schools, grades K-8, and after-school programs. A-OK works with several schools including Oakland Mills MS, Phelps Luck and Talbott Springs ES. For more info, call **410-730-2273** or email chayakaplan@verizon.net

Neighbor Ride Provides No-Cost Transportation During Volunteer Appreciation Month!

In celebration of Volunteer Appreciation Month, Neighbor Ride is offering NO-COST transportation to and from volunteer activities for Howard County seniors, age 60 and over, from **April 1 through April 30, 2011**. New and existing passengers are encouraged to take advantage of this special opportunity to reach out to others in the community.

Seniors wondering whether their special skill and talents are needed are invited to contact the Volunteer Center Serving Howard County at info@volunteerhoward.org or call 410-715-3172. Information is also available online at www.volunteerhoward.org.

If you would like more information about this exciting initiative, please contact **Colleen Konstanzer**, Neighbor Ride's Community Outreach coordinator at community@neighborride.org or call **410-884-3616**.

Newest Feature for Maryland's Workforce Exchange!

This week, a new web feature was unveiled on Maryland's Workforce Exchange. The new feature uses web "spidering technology" which collects and combines every job search website, every employer website, and every job posting in Maryland and creates a real-time, web-based, one-stop shop for Maryland job seekers.

Job seekers in Maryland can now search more than 80,000 presently open and active jobs across Maryland, indicating that while Maryland comes through this national recession, our State's employers ARE hiring! For more info or to apply, visit <https://mwe.dllr.state.md.us/default.asp?SessionUID=a>

March Economic Indicators for Howard County!

The Howard County Government and the Howard County Chamber of Commerce recently released a joint publication describing economic indicators for Howard County and surrounding areas. This information is able to provide advance warning of possible shifts in the local economy that may be helpful in the evaluation of current and future government policies and private sector business decisions.

To view this report, visit www.co.ho.md.us/DOA/DOApdfs/March_2011.pdf.

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

FINALLY! Something to Do in Howard County

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379

Youth Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, visit www.co.ho.md.us/DPW/docs/recycling_chart_web.pdf or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/DPW/Environmental_Homepage.htm.

At-Large Members Needed for Community Advisory Council!

The Community Advisory Council to the Board of Education is currently seeking at-large members for the coming school year. The council sponsors educational programming for members and provides the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, educational policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee meets at 7:30pm the third Tuesday of each month at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD. At-large members serve a two-year term. For more information, please call 410-313-6682 or email tjmallo@verizon.net.

RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open 8am-4pm Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call 410-313-6444.

How and When to Use the Emergency Room!

Remember in Howard County, there are a number of affordable alternatives to the Emergency Room if you are ill (coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains), but **not** experiencing a medical emergency. These "minute clinics" are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late night, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Many have extended and weekend hours and do not require appointments. Most accept insurance but please call the provider/clinic for details.

For a list of providers, visit <http://www.co.ho.md.us/health/docs/urgentcarecenterslist5-2010.pdf>. For additional information, contact our Health Department online at http://www.co.ho.md.us/Health/HealthMain/Health_HomePage.htm or call 410-313-6300.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

The Columbia Association (CA) and the Howard County Police Department (HCPD) have joined forces to enhance the safety of our residents in Columbia and Howard County at large.

Every month, safety tips and valuable information will be added to their newly formed website www.howardcountysafety.org. I encourage residents to continuously check this site for helpful hints to protect yourself and property and potentially reduce crime through your efforts!

Boards and Commissions Vacancies!

Howard County is well known for our active and informed residents which I proudly represent. Howard County Boards and Commissions brings meaning to “government of the people, by the people and for the people.” They provide a vital link between our citizens and the officials who serve them. P

Persons interested in applying for a Board or Commission are invited to submit a current resume along with a cover letter highlighting interests or experience which would be beneficial to the Board or Commission to which application is being made. Letters should be addressed to: **County Executive, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043.**

As vacancies occur on the various boards or commissions, interviews are scheduled with interested parties. For current vacancies and special requirements, please call **Eileen Weber**, County Executive Office at **410-313-2013**.

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money. In addition to the information below, I encourage residents to visit our Howard County Government’s website at www.co.ho.md.us/servicesresidents_financialassistance.htm. On this site, you will find resources for a variety of assistance including but not limited to child care, food, energy, water and housing.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOF_RealPropertyTaxInformation.htm or by calling **410-313-4076**. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Senior Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/SeniorCreditApp.pdf

Homeowners Tax Credit: www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/HTC-60.pdf

Homestead Tax Credit: www.dat.state.md.us

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Daycare.pdf

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Emergencyworker.pdf

Disabled Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/DisabledPoliceRescueWorker.pdf

Community Associations Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/CommAssoc.pdf

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men’s Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Auditor_FraudAlertForm.asp. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous by leaving blank those fields requesting personal information. You should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-2005.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To Schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

How You Can Participate in Howard County Government!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click on the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings
http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm

Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard county Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

We Want to Hear From You!

The link below will navigate you to a list of upcoming Council meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions, please call the contact number listed for that meeting. http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm

Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Council
District 2
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

cball@howardcountymd.gov

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

View the Council's Current Legislation and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm

*"If you don't like something,
change it. If you can't change
it, change your attitude."*

Maya Angelou